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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
Imagery Analysis ServiceIAS - 53/74
31 May 1974
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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] NPIC/DDS&T

FROM : Director, Imagery Analysis Service/DDI

SUBJECT : IAS Requirements for a Washington Area Video
Communications System

1. This memorandum addresses the needs IAS has identified from a user viewpoint for a video communication system [REDACTED]. It also describes certain hardware capabilities we believe the system should possess for optimum effectiveness. These hardware capabilities are based on various system parameters described in the report produced by [REDACTED] CIA Member of the INVIDEX Study Group, titled, "Technical Requirements for a Washington Area Video Communications System".

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3. There are four primary user applications for a video network that would benefit IAS, and most likely the whole Washington community. These applications [REDACTED] but would have a beneficial effect on other day-to-day operations, even at the present time.

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a. A video system would permit simultaneous viewing and discussion of time-sensitive subjects with Production Office analysts. This would be of [REDACTED]. In that era we assume we will be required to perform our "second-look" at imagery as we do today when CIA is confronted with very important problems, e.g., SALT, MBFR, the Mideast. This discussion of significant items could best be accomplished by means of a video communications system.

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b. A video system would provide for more effective coordination with Headquarters analysts on items to be reported in current intelligence publications such as the NIB and NID. Again, this is a continuing process and one which at times has been difficult to accomplish over a telephone.

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c. A video system would facilitate coordination with other imagery exploitation organizations on "hot" or crisis items of natural importance. Past experience has shown that coordination within the exploitation community is required on these types of items. Such coordination is possible now because the primary exploitation organizations are all located [redacted]. However, this will not be the case in the [redacted]

d. Finally, a video system will increase the effectiveness of routine inter and intra-agency discussions of imagery analysis matters. These discussions presently are limited because only audio communication is possible.

4. The hardware capabilities that we believe the system should possess are as follows:

- a. A hard copy "print" capability which will permit us to provide our customers with rapid response to high priority requests for briefing materials such as mini-boards.
- b. A digitally stored central picture file to provide a store and forward capability with picture recall and ample viewing time.
- c. A secure dedicated telephone instrument at each station.
- d. A dual cursor for "pointing" during discussions.
- e. Optional send or receive capability.
- f. Ability to transmit from both transparencies or paper prints.
- g. Ability to transmit annotated prints.

5. Based on our opinion of the importance of a Washington area video communications system [redacted]

[redacted] we strongly urge that this matter be given prompt consideration by the organizations which will be involved with [redacted] and COMIREX. We are forwarding a copy of this memorandum to the Director of each of the CIA Production Offices, to the Special Study Group, and to COMIREX. It is our recommendation that each CIA Production Office examine its requirement for such a system and make their conclusions known to the Chairman, COMIREX, at the earliest practical date, and that COMIREX begin investigating the needs of other members for a video communications system.

GEORGE W. ALLEN
Director
Imagery Analysis Service

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